

AR

annual review



Arts Council of Northern Ireland - 2014-15
www.artscouncil-ni.org





Our Vision

Our vision is to ‘place the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life’.

In *Ambitions for the Arts**, our five-year strategic plan for the development of the arts in Northern Ireland, 2013-18, we identify the main themes covering what we believe needs to be done to achieve this vision - championing the arts, promoting access, building a sustainable sector.

In this Annual Review 2014-15, you will see the progress that has been made in these areas, from the introduction of two £900,000 funding programmes to support major new arts initiatives in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry, to the range of international showcase opportunities now available to our artists and performers.

* available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

Deirdre Wild from the Fashion and Textile Hub in Derry-Londonderry

Front Cover: Stephen Rea, *Field Day: A Particle of Dread (Oedipus Variations)* by Sam Shepard. Presented at The Playhouse Derry. Photo: Ros Kavanagh

Contents

Chair's & CEO's Foreword	6
A Year in the Arts	10
The Board of the Arts Council	28
The Executive of the Arts Council	31
Financial summary	33
Frequently asked questions	37

Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2014-2015.

This calendar-style review of our combined Exchequer and National Lottery-funded activities covers many of the artistic highlights of the last (financial) year, expanding in greater detail on several of the most significant events.

A brief summary of our Accounts for the financial year is included at the end of the report. The complete sets of audited accounts for our Exchequer and National Lottery funds are made available on our website, www.artscouncil-ni.org

Public funding brings great art within the reach of everyone

What we do

The Arts Council is the development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland, providing the main support for artists and arts organisations throughout the region through a range of funding opportunities.

We distribute public money and National Lottery funds to organisations and people who develop and deliver arts programmes across all of society.

Our Arts Officers offer specialist guidance on funding and project development to artists and organisations working across the spectrum of arts activities in Northern Ireland.

- Architecture
- Arts and Disability
- Arts and Health
- Arts and Older People
- Building Peace through the Arts
- Circus Arts
- Carnival Arts
- Community Arts
- Crafts
- Creative Industries
- Dance
- Drama
- Intercultural Arts
- International Arts
- Language Arts
- Literature
- Music
- Public Art
- Traditional Arts
- Visual Arts
- Voluntary Arts
- Youth Arts

Distinguishing us from other places

Chair's & Chief Executive's Foreword

This review of the Year in the Arts offers a glimpse of the many inspiring arts events that took place throughout Northern Ireland in 2014-2015. The achievements of our artists and organisations, which you will see over the coming pages, make the 11.2% cut to the arts budget, which came into effect in April 2015, all the more disheartening. A vigorous campaign the previous November and December to challenge the cut proposed in the NI Executive's draft budget for 2015-16 succeeded in generating strong public support for the arts but could not, in the final outcome, prevent the cut. The Arts Council concluded the year with the most challenging budget review in recent times. Moving into 2015-16 we have little option other than to protect the core elements of each art form against an increasingly uncertain future, so that in better times they will be able to grow again.



Roisín McDonough
Chief Executive



Bob Collins
Chair

We want to ensure that everyone, including the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society, can share in the inspiring, uplifting and transformative experiences that are made possible through public funding of the arts.

Our Highlights of 2014-15

Our highlights of 2014-15

The Arts Council's commitment to the ideal of 'excellence in all, excellence for all' was realised throughout the year and across the region through the work of our artists and arts organisations. Everyone has a cultural life and cultural interests, and we want to ensure that everyone, including the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society, can share in the inspiring, uplifting and transformative experiences that are made possible through public funding of the arts.

This year we welcomed a number of new initiatives that created opportunities for people, many of them new to the arts, to engage in creative activities; and for artists and arts organisations to pursue their artistic goals. These ranged from the opening of Echo Echo Dance Theatre's new dance studios in Derry-Londonderry, to the Laureate na nOg Eoin Colfer taking professional storytelling to school children living in some of our remotest communities. Belfast created the post of Music Laureate to promote music reflecting the character of the city, plus a new £900,000 'Creative and Cultural Belfast' investment fund jointly supported by the Arts Council and Belfast City Council, to develop a programme of events over the next three years that will give everyone in the city the opportunity to get involved in the arts. A similar partnership between the Arts Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council saw the 'Derry Legacy Fund' continue the momentum and build on the achievements of the UK City of Culture 2013. Enniskillen's 'Happy Days International Samuel Beckett Festival'

continued to raise the creative profile of the area, and the organisers put in train plans for a festival next year to celebrate the life and works of Oscar Wilde, who also shared formative connections with Fermanagh.

Local writing received a boost through the month-long 'One City One Book' community reading programme, which featured *The Poets' Wives* by Crossgar writer David Parks. A partnership between the Arts Council and BBC Learning inspired primary school children across Northern Ireland to develop creative responses to 'Ten Pieces' of classical music, culminating in a major celebratory finale in summer 2015. Nineteen young actors from Northern Ireland took up the opportunity to perform with the National Theatre of Scotland and Scottish Youth Theatre thanks to the programme of cultural activities supporting the 2014 Commonwealth Games; and local craft-makers benefitted from a new annual craft bursary of £15,000, courtesy of the Rosy James Memorial Trust Award.

The arts sector as a whole was acknowledged in a new online research resource, www.troublesarchive.com, which provides a vivid picture of artists' responses to the Northern Ireland Troubles and to the contribution of the arts to the development of the more inclusive and tolerant society that we recognise today. The archive was developed by the Arts Council for schools and universities, and anyone with an interest in the arts and this defining chapter in our recent history.

Strengthening international opportunities for artists continues to be a priority development area for us. We were delighted this year to support Stephen Rea and Field Day theatre company to take their acclaimed production of Sam Shepard's *A Particle of Dread (Orpheus Variations)* for a six-week run in New York, their first visit to the USA. Twenty-one international artists visited Northern Ireland as part of the Corners programme, for a residential with local artists to develop proposals for international co-productions, and the success of the programme was recognised with substantial match funding from the EU/Creative Europe. The Brussels Platform, now into its fourth year, continued to provide artists and arts organisations with opportunities to showcase their work in front of an audience of international decision-makers and to promote a positive image of Northern Ireland through its diverse culture and creativity.

There were a number of strategic developments of note, such as the publication of our five-year plan for the arts, **Ambitions for the Arts**; our Disability Action Plan; and an audit of the Traditional Music Sector to assess opportunities for structured learning. In each case, progress is measured against the imperative to deepen the value of the arts to individuals and wider society, target resources to meet social and community challenges, deliver improved access, reach new audiences and enhance community engagement.

Creating shared experiences for everyone to enjoy



A Year in the Arts 2014-15

A flavour of the year's activities by the hundreds of artists, arts organisations and venues that are supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland through our Exchequer and National Lottery funds.

April 2014

- The Arts Council announces grants through its Arts & Older People Programme, worth over £270,000 to 19 organisations to support community-based arts projects for older people.



- Children's writer and illustrator Nick Sharratt marks International Children's Book Day with a tour of schools in Northern Ireland



- Awards totalling £13.7million are made to 112 arts organisations across Northern Ireland to cover running costs and programming through the Arts Council's Annual Funding Programme.

- 13 years in the making, the new £3.5m Duncairn Centre for Culture & Arts in north Belfast officially opens.

- North-South touring receives a boost with the reopening of the Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme, a joint initiative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

- HRH The Prince of Wales visits the 'Basket Case' art exhibition by local charity Action Mental Health at Fermanagh County Museum, an exhibition supported by an Arts Council Small Grant to challenge the stigma associated with mental illness and highlight how the arts can promote better mental health.



Derry Legacy Fund

The Arts Council and Derry City Council (now Derry City and Strabane District Council) have established a three-year, £900,000 fund to enhance the arts and culture programming of venues and organisations in the region and to build on the achievements of UK City of Culture 2013. Projects supported by the fund are helping to build a positive and sustainable creative legacy and are challenging social exclusion by targeting harder-to-reach groups and communities that are not currently participating in cultural activities in the area.

Thirty-five projects cover a wide range of activities, from festivals, including the Women of the World Festival and the City of Derry International Choral Festival, to individual programmes such as the LGBT theatre programme by Sole Purpose Productions and a year of high-quality international exhibitions at the Void Arts Centre.



The Fashion and Textile Hub, supporting creative individuals, entrepreneurs and businesses in the fashion and textile design sectors in the city.

May 2014

- The Northern Ireland Sikh Association uses its Intercultural Arts award from the Arts Council to organise two community youth arts projects and stage a three-day festival in Derry, encouraging intercultural engagement and developing awareness of the Sikh culture through the arts.



- Eight cultural leaders embark on Arts & Business NI's Creating Futures programme, a strategic development initiative to assist arts and cultural organisations to plan their own routes to Creating, Leading and Fundraising for the Future.
- The 15th Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival and the 12th Festival of Fools reinforce the Cathedral Quarter's reputation as Belfast's creative hub.
- The Belfast Book Festival at the Crescent Arts Centre, one of the premier literary festivals on these islands, welcomes a strong cohort of writers and speakers, from Sir Andrew Motion to Joseph O'Connor.

- With the support of both Arts Councils, the Laureate na nÓg, Ireland's laureate for children's literature, Eoin Colfer embarks on an island-wide storytelling tour to engage with young people living in remote communities.



One City One Book 2014

The annual One City One Book community reading programme and celebration of local writing returned throughout May, with *The Poets' Wives* by Belfast author David Park selected as this year's book choice. The project, which promotes NI literature and community reading by encouraging as many people as possible to read and discuss the same novel at the same time, featured a month-long supporting programme of talks, films and readings in Belfast and Derry, organised around the theme of the book. Developed by the Arts Council and supported by the Belfast Telegraph, Belfast City Council, Libraries NI, Queen's Film Theatre, Bloomsbury and U105, One City One Book is now in its third year in Northern Ireland but has its origins in Seattle in 1998. Since then the One City One Book concept has spread to cities throughout the globe, celebrating local writing and promoting reading.

Video: One City One Book Belfast 2014



David Park, One City One Book author, 2014

June 2014

- The Community Arts Partnership publishes key research into 'Community Arts and Dementia', showing tangible health benefits of participating in the arts.



- Members of the local community and black minority ethnic communities in Derry~Londonderry come together at the Intercultural Gala Festival to celebrate diversity and promote community relations through music, dance food and education.



- The Playhouse's Artskills project is awarded the Claire's Award by DCAL in recognition of their achievements in promoting learning and tackling disadvantage throughout Northern Ireland.

- Emma Jordan, Artistic Director of Prime Cut Productions in Belfast, is awarded the prestigious Paul Hamlyn Foundation Breakthrough Award of £295,000, set up to support exceptional entrepreneurs in the cultural sector in the UK.



- PLACE, the organisation dedicated to the making of great places across Northern Ireland, turns ten and moves to new premises in Belfast city centre.

Music on Tour

Moving On Music, The Walled City Music Festival, Open House, and Quercus ensemble are awarded a total of £150,000 towards touring and audience development through the Arts Council's new Music Touring Programme. The programme aims to help artists and producers work more closely with promoters and venues to develop new audiences for year-round, high-quality music on tour. It was developed in response to the Arts Council's new 5-year Strategy for Music, which aims to support a more ambitious, dynamic and cohesive approach to our music heritage and in particular, to genres such as jazz, world music, chamber music and contemporary music.



Paula Kiernan from Moving On Music and Kim Vaughan from Quercus Ensemble

July 2014

- Four Northern Ireland artists, John Duncan, Aisling O'Beirn, Nicholas Keogh and Michael Hanna, exhibit at the international Multiplicity exhibition in New York, with the support of the Arts Council and British Council.



- Nineteen young people aged 16-25 represent Northern Ireland at the Glasgow Commonwealth Culture 2014 programme, gaining the chance to work with the National Theatre of Scotland and Scottish Youth Theatre and collaborate with young people from across the Commonwealth.



- Féile an Phobail 2014 returns for its 26th year with headline acts, the Kaiser Chiefs and Boyzone.

- The Ulster Youth Orchestra celebrates its twenty-first season as the premier showcase youth orchestra in Northern Ireland.



- Young people of all abilities from Portadown develop their digital music making and lyric abilities through a Wheelworks' confidence building programme, 'Multiple Realities'.



- The first 23 projects to be funded through the Legacy Fund for Derry, a three-year £900,000 arts fund established by the Arts Council and Derry City Council to bring high-quality arts and heritage projects to Derry, are announced.

Rosy James Memorial Trust Award

Silversmith Stuart Cairns became the first recipient of a new annual craft bursary, the Rosy James Memorial Trust Award, worth £15,000. The trust, which is administered by the Arts Council, came about thanks to the generosity of Rosemary James, a colourful patron of the arts who bequeathed over £500,000 to help craft makers in Northern Ireland pursue their careers. Originally from Belfast, Rosy maintained a lifelong commitment to the arts and, following her death in 2010, at her request a Trust Fund was set up offering a bursary to help craft makers develop their careers by developing a major new body of work. The 2014 recipient, Stuart Cairns, works as a silversmith combining natural materials and found objects alongside precious metals to create artefacts in the tradition of tableware and domestic objects.

Video: Stuart Cairns talks about August Craft Month



August 2014

- Streetwise Community Circus showcases the circus skills developed by participants with learning difficulties on the Summer School training course, at the Bounce Arts & Disability Forum's annual Bounce! Festival.



- TS Eliot Prize for Poetry winner Sinéad Morrissey embarks on a Russian odyssey to unravel the story of her family's Communist past and the influence of the place that did so much to shape her atypical childhood.



- 'Ten Pieces', a UK-wide initiative designed to introduce primary school pupils to classical music, is launched and will run throughout the school year, culminating in a celebratory finale in the summer of 2015.

- The Arts Council invests £1.5m National Lottery Project funding in 54 arts organisations, enabling them to deliver a series of outstanding arts projects across Northern Ireland.

- August Craft Month, Craft Northern Ireland's annual celebration of contemporary craft in Northern Ireland, offers over 100 craft events at over 40 locations throughout the region.

Craft NI's August Craft Month 'Fab Labs' for novice designers and makers



August 2014

- The Ulster Youth Choir marks the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War with a special concert at St. Anne's Cathedral, 'Love's as Warm as Tears', celebrating liberation, peace and reconciliation.



- The third annual EastSide Arts Festival celebrates the creative talent, past and present, to emerge from east Belfast, headlined by two special concerts by Van Morrison.



- The third annual Happy Days International Beckett Festival in Fermanagh celebrates the work and influence of the Nobel Prize winning writer.

- The Arts Council meets with clients in receipt of Exchequer annual funding to discuss the possible implications of the immediate in-year budget cut for all government departments, announced by the Finance Minister following the Executive's June monitoring round.

- Artists from Northern Ireland participate in a number of commissioned arts events, including 'Lights Out' on 4th August, for the UK-wide 14-18 NOW programme, commemorating the centenary of the First World War.



CORNERS - turning Europe inside out

The success of the transnational Platform 'CORNERs – turning Europe inside out' is recognised by a grant from EU/Creative Europe, 2014–2018, matching existing funding by local CORNERs Partners, including the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and bringing the total budget up to €2,566,000.

CORNERs is an intercultural artists' platform for cultural institutions at the edges of Europe. It enables artists and researchers to come together to produce multidisciplinary contemporary artistic and cultural collaborative projects which transcend the usual geographical, political, and economic divisions. Since 2011, more than 50 artists and researchers (and the number grows) have met through CORNERs, as well as more than 30 organisations and institutions as partners and collaborators.

Artists from Northern Ireland who have taken part include poet Deirdre Cartmill, poet and playwright Maria McManus, multi-disciplinary artists Tonya McMullan and Michael Hannah, visual artist Phil Hession, theatre director Paula McFetridge and playwright Laurence McKeown.



Building our Creative Industries

September 2014

- Belfast's Lyric Theatre becomes the first arts venue in Northern Ireland to receive a five-star visitor experience rating from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.



- Acclaimed Belfast playwright Owen McCafferty is announced as the new Playwright-in-Residence at the Lyric Theatre, a post appointed annually to support new writing for theatre.



- The 'On Home Ground' festival at Laurel Villa in Magherafelt hosts a collection of literary events celebrating the life and work of the late Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney.

- Culture Night returns for the sixth year with expectations of 30,000 to 50,000 people visiting 200+ free creative events in the Cathedral Quarter in Belfast.

Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund

The Arts Council and Belfast City Council have jointly invested £900,000 in a new three-year programme of events which aims to give everyone across the city the opportunity to get involved and be inspired by ambitious, large-scale, cross-community arts and heritage projects. The seven projects are:

- The creation of Belfast Carnival Village in summer 2016 by the Beat Initiative;
- Belfast Buildings Trust and NI Opera developing Belfast's first chamber opera themed around the city's industrial heritage, to be performed in summer 2016;
- Terra Nova theatre re-imagining Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' as an intercultural story of Belfast, in Spring 2016;
- A partnership between Cultúrlann and Spectrum Centre, Abhainn bheo na Fearsaide returns the Farset to the heart of Belfast through creative workshops, heritage digs and public art;
- Golden Thread Gallery presents Draw Down the Walls: 'Invisible Barriers: Moving Images', a programme of films, inviting audiences to imagine a city without barriers, in October 2015;
- Replay Theatre Company brings the world's first BabyDay to Belfast, on 27 September 2015;
- ArtsEkta presents Nine Nights, an outdoor theatre spectacle, on 24 October 2015, retelling centuries-old Hindu folklore as a thrilling, contemporary Belfast celebration.



October 2014

- Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company opens new purpose-built premises in Derry, housing two dance studios, one with performance capability, and a range of office and ancillary spaces.



- BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle announces its first School Choir of the Year competition in association with the Ulster Youth Choir, supported by the Arts Council, with the grand finale to take place in March 2015.
- The Arts Council publishes findings from the 2014 General Population Survey, revealing that, for the first time, more people living in rural areas than in city locations are engaging with the arts.
- Internationally-acclaimed disabled dance artist, Claire Cunningham is appointed as Artist in Residence for the 2014 Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's, which showcases a world-class line-up of 110 events with 26 premieres from 18 countries.
- The Arts Council hosts an intercultural arts symposium, 'The Art of Inclusion', as a platform for debate on intercultural arts practice and audience development.

- The Arts Council establishes a forum of leading traditional music organisations to develop the traditional music sector in Northern Ireland.
- Mairéad McClean, originally from Northern Ireland, wins the inaugural £20,000 MAC International Arts prize.
- The Arts Council provides bursaries to musicians, managers and agents to attend WOMEX 14 in Santiago de Compostela, a five-day event attracting in excess of 2000 delegates from over 90 countries, including hundreds of concert and festival bookers, labels, publishers, distributors, managers and the world's media.



Uileann piper Conor Lamb attended Womex 2013 and as a result has secured performances for his band Réalta at the Sori festival in South Korea.

Ambitions for the Arts

The Arts Council published its five-year strategy for the development of the arts in Northern Ireland. The strategy, *Ambitions for the Arts*, provides a statement of priorities under three strategic themes that reflect the changing landscape for the arts and the need for strong public engagement: Championing the Arts; Promoting Access; and Building a Sustainable Sector. One of the guiding principles of the strategy is 'excellence in all and excellence for all', ensuring that artists continue to achieve the fullness of their potential, that their success is recognised and celebrated, and that everyone in society shares the benefits of public money invested in the arts.

Video: Bob Collins introduces Ambitions for the Arts



Making our lives more colourful, inspiring and meaningful



Emma McEvoy, Peter McEvoy and Emma Giles are pictured with Ulster Orchestra's Principal Bass Trombone, Richard Ashmore, as they get ready for a very special 'The Raven' Halloween workshop at Belfast's W5

November 2014

- Petr Horacek, award-winning children's author and illustrator of 'Puffin Peter', visits schools in Belfast and Lisburn for a series of interactive story sessions with local school children and to launch Bookstarts' new Treasure Packs for pre-schoolers.



- The 8th annual Outburst Queer Arts Festival provides eight days of theatre, art and discussion celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender creativity in venues across Belfast.
- The National Lottery reaches its 20th anniversary and celebrates £1 billion of investment in communities across Northern Ireland since 1994, including 20,000 projects that have received Lottery funding through the Arts Council and the other Lottery distributors in Northern Ireland.

- Following the success of its world premiere at the UK City of Culture in Derry-Londonderry, Stephen Rea reprises his role as Oedipus alongside other members of the original cast as Field Day theatre company takes 'A Participle of Dread' on a six-week run in New York.



Field Day. Judith Roddy and Stephen Rea. Photo: Ros Kavanagh

No More Cuts to the Arts! Campaign

The Arts Council campaigned in November and December against a 10% cut to the arts budget proposed in the NI Executive's draft budget for 2015-16. Enlisting the support of high-profile artists, including James Nesbitt, Duke Special, Barry Douglas and Stephen Rea, the campaign set out to engage the public in the budget consultation process and to urge the Executive to maintain the current level of investment in the arts, working out at just 13 pence per person per week.

The campaign succeeded in creating high visibility for the arts, generating approximately 17,000 petitions of support and contributing significantly to the estimated 23,000 responses submitted in support of Culture, Arts and Leisure – the highest level of support recorded for a single sector in the public consultation. It nevertheless failed to prevent DCAL from passing on an eventual budget reduction of 11.2%, setting arts funding back a decade.

Video: Impact of the arts on local business



December 2014

- Five talented musicians, soprano Sinéad O’Kelly, cellist David Sloan, mezzo soprano Dawn Burns, Uilleann piper Conor Mallon and jazz percussionist Edward Dunlop are awarded the NI Young Musicians’ Platform awards by the Arts Council and BBC NI, providing career development support and showcasing opportunities.

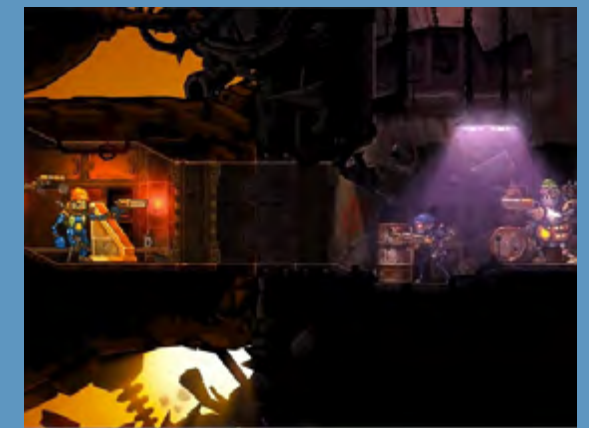
- The Verbal Arts Centre announces a new publishing partnership between the Honest Ulsterman, revived online, and the equally iconoclastic Abridged Magazine.
- The Arts Council conducts an audit of the Traditional Music Sector to help inform future planning and development for the sector.



Creative Europe Desk UK – Northern Ireland

A Creative Europe Desk opened at the Arts Council, offering free advice to support the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors in Northern Ireland in accessing Creative Europe funding. ‘Creative Europe’ is the European Union’s new funding programme to support and strengthen the creative sectors across Europe, running from 2014-2020 with a budget of €1.46 billion. The funding builds on the experience and success of the previous Culture and MEDIA programmes, which ran from 2007-2013. Each country that takes part in the programme provides an information desk.

The Creative Europe UK – Northern Ireland desk has hosted a series of specialised information events during the year, from a seminar on Creative Europe MEDIA funding to an application webinar for independent video games companies in Northern Ireland.



ARTS ECONOMY

A small investment in the Arts yields **BIG** returns for **EVERYONE**

THE ARTS MAKE A **MAJOR** CONTRIBUTION TO NORTHERN IRELAND'S ECONOMY

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES.
One of NI's main sources of job creation, wealth and competitive strength

5% of total employment in NI

40,000 people employed

BIGGER than agriculture

£714m Gross Value Added to the local economy

CULTURAL TOURISM.
The fastest growing sector within tourism and key to attracting visitors to NI

Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's 2012 generated:

£577,180 tourism revenue


£1.95m total benefit to Northern Ireland businesses

The top five arts events of the Derry ~ Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 generated:

£20 return on every **£1** invested by NITB

330,396 VISITORS

ATTRACTING INVESTMENT.
Businesses are attracted by the strength of a region's creative reputation



The arts distinguish us from other places and puts us on the map for all the right reasons.

* A rich creative environment is a known reason why international businesses choose to locate or invest in one place over another



www.artscouncil-ni.org

ARTS BUDGET IN CONTEXT

A small investment in the Arts yields **BIG** returns for **EVERYONE**

IT COSTS JUST **13p** PER PERSON PER WEEK TO MAINTAIN THE ARTS

WHAT COULD YOU BUY FOR 13p? $10p + 2p + 1p = ?$

The annual budget for the arts supports the year-round running costs of major arts organisations across the region, providing the full range of arts and cultural services

0.1% How much of the NI Budget 2014-15 goes to the arts (1/1000th)

The proposed cut of **11.2%** (£1.38m) would set public spending on the arts back a decade

Public spending on Arts has negligible impact on funding for other departments and actually makes a very positive contribution to services such as Health and Education

DID YOU KNOW? **55%** of the work undertaken by the Arts Council's regularly funded organisations takes place in **hospitals, schools** and with **community organisations**

2 1/3 DAYS How long the Arts Budget would sustain the **Education System**

1 DAY How long the Arts Budget would sustain **Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

4 days. How long the Arts Budget would sustain the **Justice System**

Jan 2015 Jan 2015 Jan 2015 Jan 2015



www.artscouncil-ni.org


ARTS IN SOCIETY

A small investment in the Arts yields **BIG** returns for **EVERYONE**

TIME TO DEBUNK THE **BIG MYTH**

MYTH: THE ARTS ARE THE PRESERVE OF A MIDDLE CLASS ELITE **EVIDENCE:** NONE

FACT: THE ARTS ARE FOR EVERYONE



- 79% of Arts Council investment goes to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland
- 70% of people living in the most socially deprived areas engage with the arts
- 80% of adults engaging with the arts live in rural areas
- 68% of the work delivered by the Arts Council's Regularly Funded Organisations happens on a cross-community basis
- 55% of the work delivered by the Arts Council's RFOs takes place in hospitals, schools and with community organisations.
- 96% of young people engage in the arts
- 79% of adults engage in the arts

Programmes aimed at 'Arts & Older People', 'Intercultural Arts' and 'Building Peace/Re-imagining Communities', support the work of artists in schools, healthcare environments and marginalised communities and actively help to **bring people and communities closer together**



www.artscouncil-ni.org

January 2015

- 'Irish Pages' Journal of Contemporary Writing launches a memorial volume dedicated to Seamus Heaney, containing poems by Heaney, essays by leading writers and photographs of the poet by Bobbie Hanvey.

- Award-winning composer, conductor and producer, Brian Irvine becomes Belfast's first Music Laureate, a role established by the Arts Council and Belfast City Council to engage the people of Belfast in music.



Disability Action Plan 2015-18

The Arts Council published its 'Disability Action Plan 2015-18', providing a clear statement of commitment to promoting positive attitudes towards people with disabilities and encouraging participation in all aspects of the arts. The plan builds on measures already taken by the Arts Council to promote inclusion and access, including funding the core costs of several Arts and Disability organisations, supporting artists through the Individual Disabled/Deaf Artists grants programme and ensuring quality of access to the arts through the Arts & Disability Equality Charter.

Research shows that people with a disability are much less likely to attend arts events than people without a disability, while participation levels are also lower. Improving access and participation in the arts for persons with a disability is considered a priority for the Arts Council.



February 2015

- The Creative Industries Innovation Fund, run by the Arts Council, achieves its 'Programme for Government' target to support 200 projects in Northern Ireland, with an investment of £1.95 million.



- The BBC, in partnership with arts, cultural and voluntary organisations across the UK, launches the year-long 'Get Creative' campaign to encourage everyone to get involved in the arts.

- Audiences NI Annual Conference explores how innovation can help the arts and cultural sector to weather the current funding climate and plan for an uncertain future.

- Following confirmation by the Northern Ireland Executive of the Northern Ireland Budget 2015-16, the arts are left facing an 11.2% budget cut and a very uncertain future.

- Twenty-two of Northern Ireland's most talented emerging professional artists receive Arts Council ACES Awards to allow them to partner with arts organisations and develop their professional artistic careers.



Troubles Art Archive

The Arts Council launched a new online archive containing hundreds of examples of important artistic works produced during the Troubles. Covering the main art forms, from the visual and literary arts to TV and film, www.troublesarchive.com offers a vivid and compelling picture of artists' responses to this darkly defining chapter in Northern Ireland's recent history. With artists' biographies, authoritative essays, analysis, film clips and a timeline of key events, the Troubles Archive is a valuable research resource for schools, universities and anyone interested in the arts or in the Troubles. The website underlines the importance of arts and culture to our understanding of the impact of 30 years of conflict and to the development of the more inclusive and tolerant society that we recognise today.

Video: Impact of the Troubles on theatre

TROUBLES ARCHIVE
arts council

I get down on my knees and do what must be done And kiss Achilles' hand, the killer of my son
 Michael Longley, 1994

Online Archive Art and the Northern Ireland Troubles 1968-98

www.troublesarchive.com

March 2015

- Three of the region's leading galleries, Golden Thread Gallery, the MAC and the Centre for Contemporary Art are selected by the Tate to join the prestigious Plus Tate contemporary visual arts network.



- Arts sector feels the impact of £1.38 million funding cuts when the Arts Council releases the first details of how it will implement the 11.2% cut to funding passed on to it as part of the Northern Ireland Executive's 2015/16 budget.
- Moving on Music celebrates 20 years of leading the way in the development and promotion of jazz, blues, classical and traditional music in Northern Ireland.

- South-African born poet Shelley Tracey is appointed as Artist in the Community, working with the Community Arts Partnership to set up an intercultural arts project that will use language positively to develop good relations between people living here from different cultures and countries.
- ATTENDANCE, a new dance audience development campaign driven by Dance Resource Base and partner dance companies, festivals and venues, is launched to encourage new attenders to contemporary dance.



- A month-long 'Arts & Age' programme of arts activities promoting the joys and benefits of creativity in older age is rolled out by the Arts Council across Northern Ireland.

- The Community Arts Partnership hosts the 'Making It' PICAS Intercultural Conference in Belfast, providing a range of sessions involving local and international participants, exploring different concepts and practices supporting Intercultural Arts.



- The annual Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival celebrates the art of song writing in a series of concerts and a convention for songwriters.
- 60,000 people visit Artichoke's stunning 72ft tall 'Temple' art work in Derry, covering the inside of the structure and its pillars with personal messages, before it was raised to the ground with 15,000 people watching on.

March 2015

- The 17th Belfast Children's Art Festival offers children from all backgrounds the opportunity to experience the arts and benefit from their imagination, ideas and inspiration, with top acts from across Europe.



- Poet Michael Longley presents Grange Primary School in Killeel with the inaugural Seamus Heaney Award for Achievement for their 'Poetry in Motion' project with the Community Arts Partnership. This new annual award, supported by the Arts Council and acknowledged by the Heaney family, recognises exceptional new local writing and exceptional contribution by schools.

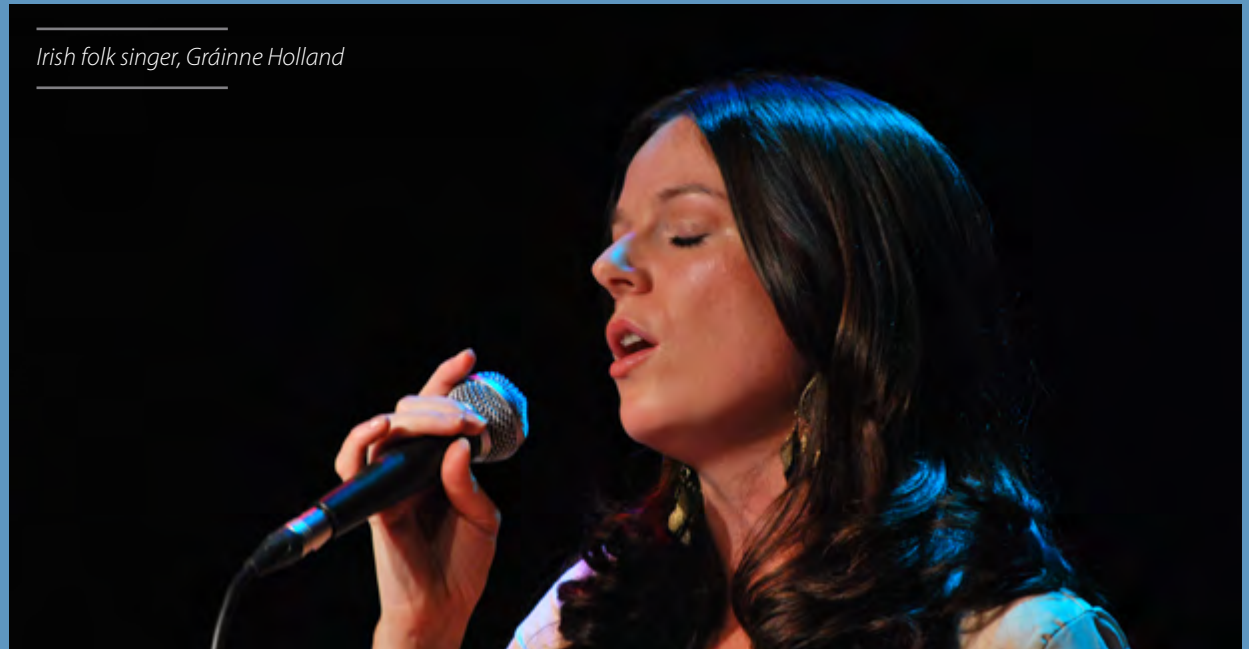


Brussels Platform

The award-winning 'Man In the Moon' theatre production by Brassneck Theatre Company becomes the latest local company to represent the arts and culture of Northern Ireland in Europe as part of the Arts Council's Brussels Platform, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels. In February singer-songwriter Hannah McPhillimy and novelist Jan Carson staged a performance of live music and reading inspired by Jan's debut novel, 'Malcolm Orange Disappears'; and in September, Brussels celebrated Culture Night with a celebration of contemporary Scottish and Irish song and music featuring Gráinne Holland & Maeve MacKinnon.

The Arts Council's partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels provides opportunities for Northern Ireland's musicians, writers, dancers, theatre practitioners and visual artists to showcase their work at a series of high-profile events at the capital of the European Union.

Irish folk singer, Gráinne Holland



Promoting equality and social inclusion



The Board of the Arts Council

The Board of the Arts Council provides leadership for the executive body, in particular in defining and developing its strategic direction. It monitors performance in order to ensure that the Arts Council fully meets its aims, objectives and performance targets, and acts in a way that promotes the highest standards of public finance.

Mr Bob Collins was appointed as Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in December 2011 for a term of four years. The Board is made up of the Chairman plus 14 members, providing a broad cross-section of expertise and including representatives from the arts and culture sector. The current members were appointed in December 2011 for a term of four years, ending November 2015. The

following board members were reappointed to serve a second term of office: Damien Coyle, Prof Paul Seawright, Prof Ian Montgomery, Janine Walker, Brian Sore. Eibhlínn Ní Dhochartaigh, Conor Shields and Nisha Tandon joined the board in May 2013 for a term of four years. Dr Siún Hanrahan and Dr Leon Litvack were appointed to the board on 1st November 2014 for period of four years.

Biographies of board members are available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

79% of Arts Council investment goes to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland



Mr Bob Collins
Chairman



Mr Damien Coyle,
Vice Chairman



David Alderdice



Anna Carragher



Nisha Tandon



Dr Siún Hanrahan



Noelle McAlinden



Katherine McCloskey



Prof Ian Montgomery



Paul Mullan



Dr Leon Litvack



Eibhlínn Ní Dhochartaigh



Prof Paul Seawright



Conor Shields



Mr Brian Sore

Board Members of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland 2014-15

Catalysts for community regeneration



The Executive of the Arts Council

Chief Executive



Roisín McDonough

The Chief Executive sets the direction and oversees the operations of the Arts Council. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the strategic plans and policies established by the Board.

Strategic Development



Nick Livingston,
Director of Strategic
Development

Strategic Development is responsible for developing the Arts Council's strategic, corporate and business plans. It is in charge of research, policy and advocacy; for ensuring the Arts Council's compliance with statutory requirements such as Equality and Freedom of Information; and for inter-agency cooperation with other government departments and local authorities.

Arts Development



Noirín McKinney,
Director of Arts
Development



Lorraine McDowell,
Director of Operations

Arts Development is the largest department in the Arts Council. It provides funding support to artists and arts organisations through its Exchequer and National Lottery funds. Funding is available through dedicated funding programmes which are linked to the Arts Council's policies and strategies for the development of the arts in Northern Ireland. The Arts Council's art form officers provide specialist expertise and advice.

This department is also responsible for corporate communications, including press and media relations.

Finance and Corporate Services



Geoffrey Troughton,
Director of Finance &
Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides the core administration for the Arts Council. Its main areas of responsibility are finance, personnel and training, IT support, Reception, Registry and general office services.

In 2014-15 the Arts Council also administered:
Creative Industries Innovation Fund
Building Peace Through the Arts – Re-imagining Communities Programme
Arts & Older People Programme

Full staff list is available on www.artscouncil-ni.org

Bringing people and communities closer together



Traditional North Indian folk drumming at Belfast Mela 2014. Carrie Davenport Photography

Financial Summary 2014-15

The Arts Council provides the main support for artists and arts organisations working in Northern Ireland, offering a broad range of funding opportunities through our Exchequer and National Lottery funds. Our funding programmes reflect the aims and objectives of our five-year strategic plan, *Ambitions for the Arts*, as well as our series of art form funding policies.

The complete sets of audited accounts for our Exchequer and National Lottery funds are made available on the Arts Council's website, www.artscouncil-ni.org

The Arts Council invested £21.5m to support the full range of creative activities across Northern Ireland in 2014-15

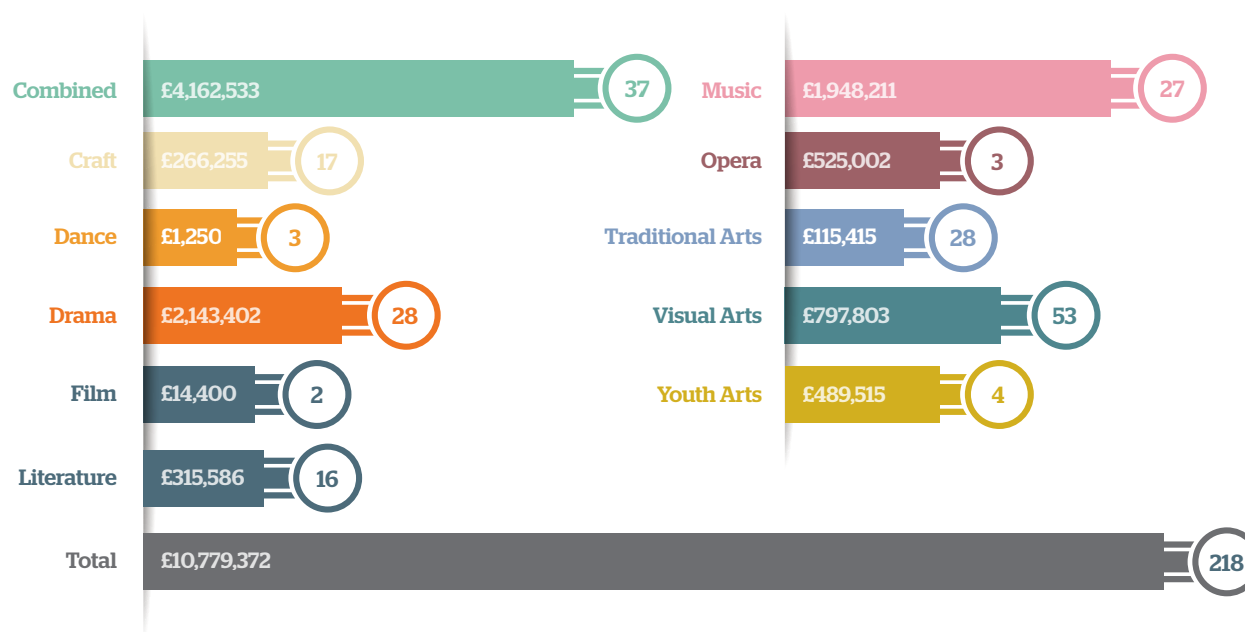
Arts Council Exchequer funding 2014-15

The Arts Council awarded funding of £10.77 million through its Exchequer fund.

These funds were awarded through a set of programmes developed to support the full range of activities of artists and arts organisations across Northern Ireland, including:

- Annual Funding Programme (AFP)
- Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP)
- Musical Equipment for Bands
- Equipment
- Travel Awards
- International Residencies
- Arts Development Fund
- Creative Industries Innovation Fund

Exchequer Awards



Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	1	2,000
ARDS	5	30,000
ARMAGH	6	22,258
BALLYMENA	2	22,040
BALLYMONEY	2	8,870
BANBRIDGE	2	1,150
BELFAST	96	8,867,484
CARRICKFERGUS	2	10,557
CASTLEREAGH	4	22,987
COLERAINE	6	179,450
COOKSTOWN	5	31,209
CRAIGAVON	3	15,500
DERRY	30	1,312,081
DOWN	12	54,848
DUNGANNON	4	16,550
FERMANAGH	1	100
LIMAVADY	1	250
LISBURN	8	42,606
MAGHERAFELT	1	150
MOYLE	2	1,100
NEWRY & MOURNE	5	28,732
NEWTOWNABBEY	3	12,522
NORTH DOWN	5	30,900
OMAGH	1	9,028
STRABANE	3	8,950
OTHER	8	48,050
GRAND TOTAL	218	£10,779,372

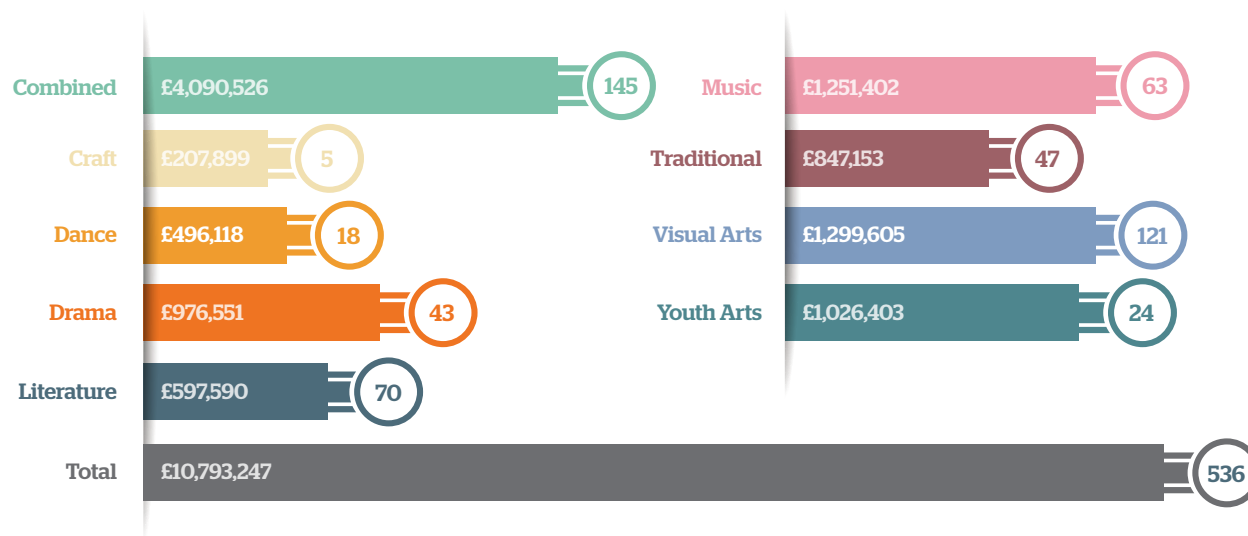
- Individual art form policies are available [here](#)
- These financial summaries refer to the period before the introduction of the new district council boundaries in Northern Ireland.

Arts Council Lottery funding 2014-15

The Arts Council awarded funding of £10.79 million through its National Lottery Fund. Lottery funds supported arts projects throughout Northern Ireland. Funding programmes included:

- Project Funding
- Support for the Individual Artist
- Public Art
- Building Peace through the Arts - Re-imagining Communities
- Arts & Older People Programme
- Intercultural Arts Programme
- Small Grants

Lottery Awards



Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
OTHER	34	1,137,306
ANTRIM	4	31,770
ARDS	13	29,973
ARMAGH	7	100,884
BALLYMENA	3	48,328
BALLYMONEY	4	10,780
BANBRIDGE	6	52,545
BELFAST	232	5,582,620
CARRICKFERGUS	5	11,263
CASTLEREAGH	6	22,933
COLERAINE	5	24,474
COOKSTOWN	4	31,030
CRAIGAVON	17	402,634
DERRY	55	1,394,505
DOWN	19	253,952
DUNGANNON	10	176,790
FERMANAGH	17	344,554
LARNE	2	2,190
LIMAVADY	2	13,500
LISBURN	20	167,163
MAGHERAFELT	2	83,204
MOYLE	4	9,400
NEWRY & MOURNE	21	359,551
NEWTOWNABBEY	11	46,213
NORTH DOWN	21	295,076
OMAGH	10	117,159
STRABANE	2	43,450
GRAND TOTAL	536	£10,793,247

Note on funding patterns:

Funding patterns in Belfast and Derry reflect the high concentrations of artists and arts organisations living and working in these areas, as well as the location of several major 'umbrella' arts organisations whose services extend to Northern Ireland as a whole.

Putting us on the world map for all the right reasons

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for funding?

The Arts Council offers a range of grant programmes that you can apply to for funding. Some programmes are specifically for organisations and others are for individual artists. For full information on all the programmes that we offer, the criteria for each programme, application deadlines and how to apply, visit the Funding pages of our website, www.artscouncil-ni.org

When can I apply?

Most grant programmes take place in funding rounds with specific dates when we will accept applications. Some programmes are open all year round. For information on funding deadlines, visit the Funding pages of our website.

How long will it take to reach a decision?

This may vary with each programme, although we would generally aim to make a decision on applications from individuals and organisations within three months.

Where can I get help with my application?

The guidance notes for each programme provide information on the assessment criteria, eligibility and application process. Our Arts Development Officers can also offer advice and assistance before you submit an application. Contact details are available in the **About Us** section of our website, or you can contact the switchboard and you will be directed to the most appropriate person.

How do I complain to the Arts Council?

The Arts Council has a **Service Charter** which outlines the standard of service our clients should expect from us. We operate a **Service Complaints Procedure** to handle general complaints about our service. In addition, we operate a **Funding Review Procedure** for those who want to appeal a decision about a grant application. These documents are available on the website.

Useful Contacts at the Arts Council:

Arts Development Officers:

- Damian Smyth, Drama and Literature
- Suzanne Lyle, Visual Arts
- Ciaran Scullion, Music & Opera
- Fionnuala Walsh, Participatory Arts
- Gilly Campbell, Drama and Dance
- Joan Dempster, Community Arts
- Lizzie Devlin, Community Arts
- Joanna Harvey, Visual Arts
- Deirdre Robb, Visual Arts
- Gavin O'Connor, Youth Arts
- Maria McAlister, Music, Traditional Arts
- Lorraine Calderwood, Arts & Older People
- Sonya Whitefield, Development
- Edel Murphy, Small Grants
- Sarah Coburn, Press Officer
- Angela Warren, Press Officer

Arts Council

E: info@artscouncil-ni.org

Helping to find creative solutions to the legacies of our past



For further information please contact:

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

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W: www.artscouncil-ni.org

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Email: mhendry@artscouncil-ni.org